

2d Cavalry Regiment *THE DRAGOON*



Volume I, Issue 8

May 2012



COL Keith Barclay

RCSM Malcolm Parrish



Contents

Calendar	2
Regiment	3
1st Squadron	4
2nd Squadron	5
3rd Squadron	6
4th Squadron	7
FIRES	8
RSS	9



SFC Ramos, representing the oldest Soldier, and PFC West, representing the youngest Soldier, cut the Regimental Birthday cake as the Col. Barclay and RCSM Parrish officiate.

Highlights in 2d Cavalry History

This Week in 2d CR History for 13 May to 19 May

18-22 May 1846 – Matamoras, Mexico. After the battle of Resaca de la Palma the American troops failed to pursue the Mexicans across the river and capture Matamoras. General Taylor made preparations to take the city on 19 May consisting of the Second Dragoons and two companies of Texas Rangers. The expedition followed the enemy for sixty miles until there was a shortage of water and the horses grew exhaustive. Troops involved B, C, D, E, F, H, and K, 2d Dragoons.

15 May 1870 – Spring Creek, or Little Blue, Nebraska. SGT Patrick Leonard, PVT Heth Canfield, PVT Michael Himmelsback, PVT Thomas Hubard, and PVT George W. Thompson, of C Troop, encountered about sixty Indians near Spring Creek, Nebraska while searching for strayed stock. After a severe fight of one and a half hours, the enemy was driven off, leaving one dead and seven wounded, while one of the soldiers was wounded. For their conduct on this day, all the men were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry in action. Troop involved C, 2d Cavalry.

Become a member of the 2d Cavalry Association - For more information, visit our website at: <http://www.dragoons.org/>

Regimental Honorary Squadron



The Honorary Squadron Soldier inductees for April: (L to R) CPT Dave Cooper, SFC Kwasi Davis, MSG Nakia Nelson, CPT Brian Cahill, MAJ Jess Traver, MAJ Jim Brown

Warrior Leaders Course



Leadership Awardee: SGT Brian Samuels HHT, 1st Squadron

Commandant Inspection: SPC Sita Pachabhaiya C Trp, RSS

Iron Soldiers: SPC Damion Stephens HHB, FIRES

Commandant's Top 20% : SPC Richard Rec, D Co, 1st Squadron

SGT Douglas Hutchison HHT, 4th Squadron

SPC Daniel Shelman, B Trp RSS

SGT Brian Samuels HHT, 1st Squadron

SPC Stephen Cunningham, G Co. 3rd Squadron

War Eagle Update



The months of April and May were full of diverse and intense training for the War Eagles. While remaining able to deploy at a moment's notice, Apache, Bull, and Comanche Troops conducted force on force operations in the Hohenfels Training Area (HTA). The exercise was a full spectrum test of all members of the Squadron - from the staff's ability to digest and disseminate operations orders to the riflemen providing suppressive fire against an attacking force.

an objective in one exercise. The effect was impressive to watch as mortar rounds, MGS rounds, and crew served weapons worked in unison to suppress and destroy all targets that stood in their path. Although the Troops were tired from weeks in the field, the value and excitement of bringing all of the Squadron's fire-power to bear was an experience to be proud of while taking some much deserved rest.



Apache performs movement to contact training HTA during company ExEvals on April 27,

Digital Fires systems were also put to the test, as fire missions were processed from the observer to the squadron mortars without a voice command being given. All three Troops trained at their core missions: Troop Attack, Hasty Attack, and Defense. Utilizing the unique resources available at HTA to create obstacles, canalizing terrain, and dig MGS vehicles into defilade they defeated the enemy decisively. The realism provided during this training provided valuable experiences that could not be replicated anywhere else in Europe. The War Eagles continued to lead the way in all aspects of mission readiness and operations.

Following exercises in Hohenfels, 1st Squadron continued to charge forward into the culminating event, Troop Live Fire. The event called upon years of training and discipline in order to integrate mounted and dismounted small arms, MGS, and indirect fires into a coordinated assault upon the enemy. This was the first time since returning from Afghanistan that all available weapons systems were massed on

The last weeks of May brought the War Eagles to the Slunj Training Area in Croatia, where 1st Squadron was chosen to represent 2 CR and USAREUR to assist the Armies of Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, and Albania with their tactics and confidence as they prepare to send forces to Afghanistan. Using the Squadron's lessons and experience learned from the numerous field exercises the weeks prior, it was time to reach outwards to our NATO allies. Throughout three weeks of training and advising 1st Squadron will continue to build important relationships and assist in valuable training for all those involved, and make some friends. Upon the conclusion of this exercise, the War Eagles can look forward to rest and recovery at the end of June before ramping back up for the Regimental Culminating exercise in Hohenfels.

As always, it's a great day to be a War Eagle!



U.S. Army Europe's SGT Wesley Tischmacher of 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment out of Vilseck, Germany from Bradenton, FL gives a "Meal Ready to Eat" (MRE) package to PFC Zdenko Pucar in Signal Company, Guards Motorized Brigade, of the Croatian Land Forces after installing a communication system on an air defense artillery range to be used during the Immediate Response 2012 (IR12) training event held in Slunj, Croatia, on Sunday, May 27, 2012.

Cougar Update

Cougar Families and Friends,

Even as the Bavarian weather transitioned from late winter frosts to the warmth of spring, Cougars have maintained their intense training focus. As inevitably as the changing of the seasons, the Cougars are marching toward success in unified land operations. The initiative moved from platoon to company tasks in preparation for upcoming company evaluations while the Cougars made time to perform several additional duties that saw them celebrate a proud moment in the Czech Republic and participated in an important NATO training exercise in Denmark.

In April 1945 the world-famous Lipizzaner Stallions, which had been moved by German forces to the area of the Czech town of Hostoun, were in jeopardy of becoming casualties during the final days of the Second World War. Because of the noble actions of Dog Company Soldiers, 375 of the rarified Lipizzans were rescued. So it was with pride that Dog Company returned to Hostoun on April 28th to celebrate the unit's unique history and honor the memories of the two Soldiers who lost their lives in the operation.

Cougars of Headhunter Company had the unique developmental experience of taking on the role of a Regimental staff in a NATO exercise on Denmark's Jutland coast designed to exercise the capabilities for NATO's Northeastern European Forces, which are blended from Polish, German, Austrian, Dutch, and US armed services. For two weeks the Cougar staff engaged in Regimental operations orders production while maintaining daily battlefield operations. Having completed this exceptional exercise, the Cougar staff is now well ahead of



RCSM Parrish and CSM Spivey participate in the celebration of Dog Company Soldiers freeing the Lipizzan stallions in Hostoun, Czech the during final days of WWII on April 28.

the ordinary in its understanding of multi-national and joint operations.

Continuing with its intensive training plan, Eagle Company took to the field for a three day exercise as it conducted platoon movements on foot and in vehicles, both during the day and at night.

It was a long day at the machine gun range for Fox Company on the 8th of May. They started shooting at 9 A.M.; fourteen hours and 14,000 live rounds later, they concluded the day having qualified 25 more Soldiers on the squad automatic weapon and the 240B machine gun.



CPT Tennekoon salutes the site where PFC Raymond Manz and Tech 5 Owen Sutton died during a memorial ceremony on Operation Cowboy.

In the coming weeks the big event for all Cougars will be company evaluations in which the Regimental Commander will personally operate with each of the Cougar companies in order to assess their readiness for upcoming Regimental maneuvers.

Always Ready....Second to None!



Wolf Pack

The Wolfpack of 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment deployed to Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr Training Areas to conduct 10 days of continuous operations in support of Operation Wolfpack Strike, a company Situational Training Exercise (STX) followed by a company Live Fire Exercise (LFX).

The event centered on the training and evaluation of each company, the culmination of five months of training at the individual, team, squad, and platoon levels. The training encompassed situations that required each company to operate for a sustained period in a combined arms environment, maneuver training that many Soldiers and leaders have not conducted at this level in several years. The goal was to challenge leaders to develop solutions to problems with limited information: to train problem-solving and adaptability.

Additionally, this exercise trained HHC on their supportive role during combat. The Tactical Operations Center (TOC), Combat Trains Command Post (CTCP), and Field Trains Command Post (FTCP) were all doctrinally echeloned to provide to support to the squadron. The mechanics at the Unit Maintenance Collection Point (UCMP) and the medics at the Squadron Aid Station (SAS) also provided support to the event. Our German partnership unit provided OPFOR support, the 104th Panzer Battalion, provided a tank platoon and the Reconnaissance Platoon equipped with Wolf scout vehicles. Overall, it was a great training event.

Over the next month, Iron Company will deploy to Latvia while a portion of HHC to deploys to Estonia in support of Saber Strike 12. This event will partner Baltic nations with select U.S. elements to improve NATO and coalition interoperabil-



The tactical operation center for 3rd Squadron provided command and control of each troop through the external evaluations in Hohenfels and the Grafenwoehr Training Areas.

ity and strengthen relationships between military forces while synchronizing efforts with existing regional partnerships. Ghost and Hawk companies continue to train on individual tasks in preparation for EIB testing later in the summer.



Soldiers from Iron Troop, 3rd Squadron conduct rail load operations in order to prepare for Saber Strike.



Saber Update



4th Squadron, 2D Cavalry Regiment left the Weiden Maneuver Rights Area in Weiden, Germany as the squadron completed its two-week Platoon STX exercises on 27 April 2012. With Summer Block Leave coming up in just a few short weeks, many would think that a squadron would have an easy schedule leaving into the block leave period, especially since they just had just completed a big field exercise. But the “Sabers” have been very busy.

Not thirty days out from the completion of Platoon STX, Sabers are entering Troop EXEVALS, during which, Commanders will be evaluated on their abilities while commanding their units. “Sabers” were busy with multiple civil engagements to enrich their partnerships with the community.

During the first full week of May, Saber Squadron was host to four visiting parties to the Squadron and held an orientation for its newest spouses. The first event on 9 May, titled “Operation Junior Saber,” saw the Army JROTC students at Vilseck High School on Rose Barracks become Sabers for a day. These students learned about the Stryker vehicles and some of the differences in the many Stryker variants during a static display where one of each of the squadron’s Stryker variant were displayed. The students had lunch with many Sabers at the local Dining Facility, learned about the extremely involved process of maintenance, and finished the day with a short convoy into the Grafenwoehr Training Area.



Troopers explain Stryker capabilities to JROTC students from Vilseck High School during Operation Junior Saber on May 9.

The next day, 10 May, held three events for the Sabers. The first event was the Saber Spouse Orientation, in which, new spouses of the Squadron received an introduction from the CSM and the SCO and an intro to the Squadron’s headquarters. Later in the day, the Sabers welcomed students from a German high school in Bamberg who were getting a tour of the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Once the students arrived at the Saber Motor Pool, these students had a chance to learn about the Stryker and saw the same static display as the Vilseck High School students the day before. These students had a great time getting an up close look at some of the combat vehicles the United States Army can employ. The final event on 10 May was a visit from the Belgian Army, who was conducting training in the Grafenwoehr Training Area.



Two Soldiers build interoperability while talking about the Piranha Assault vehicle during the recent Belgian visit to Saber Squadron on May 10.

The Belgians came to the Saber Motor Pool and conducted their own static display to match the Stryker static display already set up. While the Belgians got a chance to learn about the Stryker vehicles, Sabers got a chance to learn about some of the vehicles of the Belgian Army: the Piranha Assault vehicle, much like a Stryker, and the Dingo tactical truck, similar to a HMMWV.

The following week was dedicated to the preparation for Troop EXEVALS. Sabers spent numerous hours practicing tactics, cleaning vehicles, and packing equipment. At the end of it, on 24 May, Saber Squadron left the Motor Pool and Rose Barracks for the Hohenfels Training Area to conduct Troop EXEVALS. With two of the three Reconnaissance Troops complete with evaluations, one remains, but the Sabers train and execute as if the end were not in sight.

Artillery Hell

May has been a month of historic achievements for Fires Squadron as multiple missions came to fruition and new partnerships formed with allied nations and sister units.

Continuing the intense training cycle of the last several months, each firing battery endured an external evaluation as part of the Dragoon Artillery Readiness Test (DART). Once complete, they moved out to provide precision artillery fire in support of each of the maneuver squadrons conducting their company live fire exercises. By the start of summer, each firing battery will have demonstrated their ability to deliver lethal and accurate fires in support of combined arms maneuver, one of the core artillery tasks that will once again be tested this fall during the Regiment's Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) exercise in Hohenfels.

One of the highlights of the DART operation was the first air assault artillery raid in Regimental history. Partnered with German helicopter pilots from the 2nd Aviation Detachment, 25th Military Transportation Regiment, each of the firing sections applied their recently acquired sling load and air assault skills by hooking up each howitzer onto an aircraft hovering steadily just a few feet above their heads. The helicopters then flew the howitzers to a new firing position where they were quickly emplaced and ready to fire.

In keeping with the U.S. Military's European theater security strategy, Fires Squadron also spent time conducting joint fire support training with elements of the 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery from the British Army who had come to the Grafenwoehr Training Area for two weeks. Much of the training was focused on joint fire support planning and the integration of multiple platforms to achieve maximum destructive



A German CH53 Stallion prepares to pick up the first of four M777A2 howitzer during the 1st ever NATO partnered sling loaded artillery raid in the Grafenwoehr Training Area on 16 and 22 May. The operation was called Raiding Hell.

effects on the battlefield by layering mortars, artillery, and close air support onto a single target. Without the luxury of a nearby allied artillery unit, the opportunity to work with the British was a first in Fires Squadron history and set the foundation for a potential long-term partnership.

Finally, the officers, NCOs, and Soldiers of Fires Squadron said a reluctant goodbye to the outgoing Command Sergeant Major, 1SG Steven Browne. In doing so, they warmly welcomed his replacement, CSM Stanley Akins.

With summer just around the corner, Fires Squadron will continue to set the standard for the Regiment with each new challenge and mission. Artillery Hell!



On the other side of the globe, Soldiers from the Military Intelligence Troop's Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) platoon travelled to Camp Shelby, Mississippi in order to conduct flight operations designed to improve individual and collective task proficiency for future worldwide deployments. Flying 21 sorties for a combined 42 hours of flight time, the flight crews took advantage of the opportunity to maintain their training program requirements and simulate the conditions they would face during combat operations.



Soldiers from the UAS platoon conducted flight operations in Camp Shelby, Mississippi to increase combat proficiency.

Muleskinner



Muleskinners shows esprit de corps as they run for fun in the Grafenwoehr 5K and half marathon on May 5.

Muleskinners Ride Together for the Grafenwoehr Fun Run

The Muleskinners of the Regimental Support Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment participated in the Grafenwoehr 5K and Half marathon fun run on the 5th of MAY 2012. The spirit of the run was to build camaraderie and esprit de corps within the Muleskinner Squadron. Troopers were invited to bring their families as part of the event.

Participants in the fun run began the day in formation with colors and Squadron T-shirts symbolizing the strength and solidarity of the Muleskinners. Led by LTC Dennis Wedding, approximately 60 Muleskinners completed the 5k run as a single entity. The formation of Troops finished within the top 40 of all participants during the race.

"Today's run was a great show of support for the Muleskinner family and for 2d Cavalry Regiment," said LTC Dennis Wedding. "It's great to have all of the Troopers and their families out here."

Following the 5k, 38 Muleskinners participated in the half marathon. 2LT Shaina Cales won her age group with a time of 1 hour 36 minutes. MAJ Tanner Roy finished 2nd in his age group with a time of 1 hour 28 minutes, the fastest for all Muleskinners. Every Muleskinner who participated in the half marathon completed the event. All individuals and their times are listed on the Muleskinner Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RSS.2CR

"It's amazing to see the camaraderie that this Squadron has built within a very short period of time," CSM Michael Perry III added. "Events like these will pay dividends down the road as the unit continues to grow and family bonds strengthen."



2LT Shaina Cales of Q Troop, Regimental Support Squadron receives a plaque for winning her age group at the Grafenwoehr Half marathon.



2d Cavalry Regiment



Always remembered!